

Shaker East Family Dwelling House
(Shakertown Inn)
N. side of Village Road, N. of U. S. Rt. 68
and State Rt. 33 intersection, N.E. of
Harrodsburg
Pleasant Hill (Shakertown)
Mercer County
Kentucky

HABS No. KY-20-12

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Name of structure: "Shakertown Inn"

Location: Shakertown, Mercer County, Kentucky

Owner or
custodian: Mr. Hanly Bohon

Address: Harrodsburg, Kentucky

Date built: 1817
(approx)

Architect
or builder: Shaker Community.

Present
condition: Excellent.

Number of
stories: Three stories and attic (finished);
also basement.

Material used
in construction: Foundation: Native stone.
Exterior walls: Brick.
Interior partitions: Brick and frame,
plastered.
Floors: Wood, random width ash, first,
second and third floors;
kitchen, new yellow pine;
basement: earth.
Roof: Frame construction, covered with
standing seam metal.

Description: This building, it is said, bears the
architectural stamp of the old Pennsylvania brick
and historical houses, and contains twenty-two rooms;
two of which are in the attic. There
are five rooms, or compartments, in
the basement.

The stone used in this building was quarried from
the hills; the brick fired on the place, and the timber cut
from the surrounding forest. No brick or stone has become
loose, nor have the floors the least appearance of warping.

The newel posts of the stairs are as solid today as when erected.

There are two stairways extending from the basement to the attic. One of the stairs was for the exclusive use of the men of the community, and the other for the exclusive use of the women of the community. In each room, about six and a half feet from the floor, are rails containing pegs, about a foot apart.

This is one of the many structures erected by the community of a religious sect known as "The United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearance", but generally called "The Shakers". They were very industrious, and there were numbered among them many excellent craftsmen. This community of "The Shakers" was organized in this section of Kentucky in 1805, and erected the first building. For more than fifty years the community flourished, and during 1860 there were about six hundred members; many coming from Europe to this section to join the community.

From the "Banta Genealogy" by Theodore M. Banta, published in 1893, page 93, a brief statement of the origin of Shakerism in Kentucky may be of interest:

"In the year of 1800 began that extraordinary movement known as the 'Kentucky Revival', during the progress of which religious meetings were held attended by as many as twenty thousand persons at one time; the meeting being continued day and night for several days. As an outgrowth of this awakening, Shakerism had its rise in Kentucky. A delegation from the community at New Lebanon, New York, visited the State and found a hospitable reception at the house of John Banta, who was one of the first to embrace their teaching".

The following is quoted from Book "A" of the Church Record of the Society of Shakers:

"May 27, 1817, the foundation of the large three-story brick house called the East House (now Shakertown Inn) was laid, the dwelling house 45 feet by 55, the kitchen 28 feet by 56, and on the 18th of October, 1819, the family moved into it.

"In September, 1831, we commenced our water works, digging out the spring and preparing it to receive the force pumps--and the work went into full operation on the 30th of April, 1833".

E. M. Grimes
Revised 1936 by H.C.F.

Addendum To

Shaker Centre Family Dwelling House
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Pleasant Hill
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